

In the Claims:

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1. (Currently amended) A composition for local administration of an anti-tumor chemotherapeutic to a patient having a tumor, the composition ~~comprising~~, comprising:
a plurality of microspheres incorporating ~~the~~ at least one anti-tumor chemotherapeutic; and
~~surrounded by~~ a suspending solution comprising at least one apoptosis-inducing chemotherapeutic.
 2. (Currently amended) The composition of claim 1, wherein the ~~anti-tumor~~ apoptosis-inducing chemotherapeutic is ~~in a formulation comprising a mixture of the anti-tumor chemotherapeutic and~~ combined with an amount of a plasma protein in an amount effective to solubilize in increasing the aqueous solubility of the anti-tumor apoptosis-inducing chemotherapeutic in the suspending solution.
 3. (Currently amended) The composition of claim 2, wherein the plasma protein is selected from the group consisting of human serum albumin, ~~and~~ γ-immunoglobulin, and combinations thereof.
 4. (Currently amended) The composition of claim ~~2~~ 1, wherein the longest diameter of the microspheres is less than about 20 microns.
 5. (Currently amended) The composition of claim ~~2~~ 1, wherein the microspheres are microcapsules.
 6. (Currently amended) The composition of claim ~~2~~ 1, wherein the anti-tumor chemotherapeutic is contained within the microsphere.
 7. (Currently amended) The composition of claim ~~2~~ 1, wherein the anti-tumor chemotherapeutic is attached to the microsphere.
 8. (Currently amended) The composition of claim ~~2~~ 1, wherein the microspheres ~~comprises~~ a comprise at least one biodegradable polymer.
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9. (Previously amended) The composition of claim 8, wherein the biodegradable polymer is selected from the group consisting of polylactic acid, polyglycolic acid and a co-polymer of polyglycolic and polylactic acid.
 10. (Withdrawn) ✓
 11. (Withdrawn) ✓
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B2 12. (Currently amended) The composition of claim 2, wherein degradation of the microspheres releases the anti-tumor chemotherapeutic ~~from the microspheres~~ in a therapeutically effective amount.

13. (Original) The composition of claim 12, wherein up to about 50 % of the anti-tumor chemotherapeutic is released from the microspheres within about 24 hours after administration of the microspheres to the patient.

14. (Original) The composition of claim 12, wherein between about 15 to about 25 % of the anti-tumor chemotherapeutic is released from the microspheres within about 24 hours after administration of the microspheres to the patient.

15. (Currently amended) The composition of claim ~~2~~ 12, wherein the anti-tumor chemotherapeutic is released from the microsphere by diffusion.

16. (Original) The composition of claim 15, wherein the anti-tumor chemotherapeutic is released in a therapeutically effective amount over a period of time from about 1 week to about six months after administration to the patient.

17. (Original) The composition of claim 15, wherein the anti-tumor chemotherapeutic is released in a therapeutically effective amount over a period of time from about 3 weeks to about 2 months after administration to the patient.

B3 18. (Currently amended) The composition of claim ~~2~~ 1, wherein the anti-tumor chemotherapeutic ~~is an~~ comprises at least one apoptosis inducing chemotherapeutic.

19. (Withdrawn)

B4 20. (Currently amended) The composition of claim 18, wherein the ~~anti-tumor chemotherapeutic is~~ microspheres comprise paclitaxel.

21. (Original) The composition of claim 20, wherein the paclitaxel is at a concentration from about 0.1 to about 10 mg/mL.

22. (Original) The composition of claim 20, wherein the paclitaxel is at a concentration from about 0.5 ~~to~~ about 5 mg/mL.

23. (Cancelled)

B5 24. (Currently amended) The composition of claim ~~23~~ 1, wherein the ~~apoptosis inducing chemotherapeutic is~~ suspending solution contains paclitaxel.

25. (Currently amended) The composition of claim 24, wherein the total paclitaxel in both

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the microspheres and in the solution the composition is about 70 to about 280 mg.

26. (Original) The composition of claim 24, wherein the paclitaxel in both the microspheres and in the solution is at a concentration of about 135 mg/m² to about 175 mg/m².

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27. (Currently amended) The composition of claim 23 24, wherein ~~between~~ about 10 % to about 90 % of the paclitaxel is ~~present~~ incorporated in the microspheres.

28. (Currently amended) The composition of claim 23 27, wherein ~~between~~ about 60 % to about 90 % of the paclitaxel is ~~present~~ incorporated in the microspheres.

29. (Currently amended) The composition of claim 23 28, wherein ~~between~~ about 80 % to about 90 % of the paclitaxel is ~~present~~ incorporated in the microspheres.

30. (Cancelled) ✓

31. (Cancelled) ✓

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32. (Currently amended) The composition of claim 30 24, wherein the ~~second~~ suspending solution comprises an anti-tumor chemotherapeutic is selected from the group consisting of paclitaxel, cisplatin, adriamycin, butyric acid, cyclophosphamide, etoposide, amsacrine, genistein, and mitoguazone.

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33. (Currently amended) A method for local administration of an anti-tumor chemotherapeutic to a tumor, comprising the steps of:
delivering to a tumor a chemotherapeutic reservoir ~~to the tumor~~; and,
releasing the chemotherapeutic from the reservoir to an interstitial space of the ~~tumor in a therapeutically effective amount~~;
wherein, the chemotherapeutic reservoir includes comprising (1) a plurality of microspheres incorporating the at least one anti-tumor chemotherapeutic and (2) a suspending solution surrounding the microspheres comprising at least one apoptosis-inducing chemotherapeutic.

34. (Currently amended) The method of claim 33, wherein the ~~chemotherapeutic reservoir~~ apoptosis-inducing chemotherapeutic ~~comprises a mixture of the anti-tumor chemotherapeutic and a~~ is combined with an amount of plasma protein in an amount effective to solubilize in increasing the aqueous solubility of the anti-tumor chemotherapeutic.

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35. (Currently amended) The method of claim 34, wherein the plasma protein is selected

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from the group consisting of human serum albumin, ~~and~~ γ-immunoglobulin, and combinations thereof.

(Currently amended) The method of claim ~~34~~ 33, wherein the microspheres comprise a at least one biodegradable polymer.

37. (Previously amended) The method of claim 36, wherein the biodegradable polymer is selected from the group consisting of polylactic acid, polyglycolic acid and a co-polymer of polyglycolic and polylactic acid.

38. (Withdrawn)

39. (Withdrawn)

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40. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~34~~ 33, wherein the anti-tumor ~~agent~~ chemotherapeutic is released from the microspheres in a therapeutically effective amount primarily by degradation of the microspheres.

41. (Currently amended) The method of claim 40, wherein about 50 % of the anti-tumor chemotherapeutic is released from the microspheres within about 24 hours following delivery of the chemotherapeutic reservoir to the tumor.

42. (Currently amended) The method of claim 40, wherein about 15 to about 25 % of the anti-tumor chemotherapeutic is released from the microspheres within about 24 hours following delivery of the chemotherapeutic reservoir to the tumor.

43. (Currently amended) The method of claim 34, wherein the anti-tumor chemotherapeutic is released from the microsphere primarily by diffusion.

44. (Currently amended) The method of claim 43, wherein the anti-tumor chemotherapeutic is continuously released from the microspheres in a therapeutically effective amount for a time period lasting from between about one week to about six months.

45. (Currently amended) The method of claim 43, wherein the anti-tumor chemotherapeutic is continuously released from the microspheres in a therapeutically effective amount for a time period lasting from between about three weeks to about two months.

46. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~34~~ 33, wherein the longest diameter of the microspheres are less than about 20 microns.

47. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~34~~ 33, wherein the microspheres are microcapsules.

48. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~34~~ 33, wherein the ~~anti-tumor~~ chemotherapeutic is an microspheres comprise at least one apoptosis inducing chemotherapeutic.

49. (Withdrawn) ✓

50. (Currently amended) The method of claim 48, wherein the ~~anti-tumor chemotherapeutic~~ is microspheres comprise paclitaxel.

51. (Original) The composition of claim 50, wherein the paclitaxel is at a concentration from about 0.1 to about 10 mg/mL.

52. (Original) The method of claim 50, wherein the paclitaxel is at a concentration from about 0.5 to about 5 mg/mL.

53. (Cancelled)

54. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~53~~ 33, wherein the ~~apoptosis inducing~~ chemotherapeutic is suspending solution contains paclitaxel.

55. (Amended) The method of claim ~~53~~ 33, wherein the total paclitaxel in ~~both the~~ microspheres and in the solution the composition is about 70 to about 280 mg.

56. (Original) The method of claim ~~53~~ 33, wherein the total paclitaxel in both the microspheres and in the solution is at a concentration of about 135 mg/m² to about 175 mg/m².

57. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~53~~ 33, wherein ~~between~~ between the composition contains paclitaxel, about 10 % to about 90 % of ~~the paclitaxel~~ which is present incorporated in the microspheres.

58. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~53~~ 33, wherein ~~between~~ about 60 % to about 90 % of the paclitaxel is ~~present~~ present incorporated in the microspheres.

59. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~53~~ 33, wherein ~~between~~ about 80 % to about 90 % of the paclitaxel is ~~present~~ present incorporated in the microspheres.

60. (Cancelled)

61. (Cancelled)

62. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~60~~ 33, wherein the ~~second~~ suspending solution comprises an anti-tumor chemotherapeutic is selected from the group consisting of paclitaxel, cisplatin, adriamycin, butyric acid, cyclophosphamide, etoposide,

amsacrine, genistein, and mitoguazone.

63. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~34~~ 33, wherein the delivering step includes the step of positioning the chemotherapeutic reservoir within the tumor.

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Cmt 64. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~34~~ 33, wherein the delivering step includes the step of intratumorally injecting the chemotherapeutic reservoir within the tumor.

65. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~34~~ 33, wherein the delivering step includes the step of positioning chemotherapeutic reservoir adjacent to the tumor.

B13 66. (New) The method of claim 33, wherein the chemotherapeutic reservoir is delivered into the tumor with elevated pressure.

67. (New) The method of claim 33, further comprising a step of delivering to the tumor a solution comprising a chemotherapeutic before the step of delivering the chemotherapeutic reservoir.

68. (New) The method of claim 67, wherein the chemotherapeutic comprises paclitaxel.

69. (New) The method of claim 67, wherein both the solution and the chemotherapeutic reservoir are delivered with elevated pressure.

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C 70. (New) The method of claim ~~34~~ 33, wherein the plasma protein is human serum albumin.

71. (New) The method of claim 2, wherein the plasma protein is human serum albumin.
